

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215799  
ORIGIN EA-12

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R 242056Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY POUCH  
XMT AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

S E C R E T STATE 215799

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, KS, US, KN, PEPR, MARR, EFIS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/K - DAVID BLAKEMORE

### 1. KOREA'S SEARCH FOR ENERGY (SECRET/NOFORN)

KOREA CONTINUES TO SEEK LONG-TERM INSURANCE THAT ITS  
ECONOMIC GROWTH WILL NOT BE LIMITED BY ENERGY SHORTAGES,  
OR PROBLEMS CAUSED BY SINGLE-SOURCE ENERGY SUPPLY. THE  
LATEST INDICATIONS OF THE ROKG'S SOURCE DIVERSIFICATION  
EFFORTS ARE REPORTED KUWAITI-FINANCED REFINERY EXPANSION  
IN KOREA AND AGREEMENT TO FORM A JOINT VENTURE WITH AUS-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 215799

TRALIA TO MINE URANIUM. PRELIMINARY TALKS IN KUWAIT  
CENTERED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT KUWAITI PARTICIPATION IN  
EXPANDING KOREA'S REFINERY CAPACITY MIGHT LEAD TO IN-  
CREASED PURCHASES OF KUWAITI CRUDE (CURRENTLY ABOUT ONE-  
THIRD OF KOREAN CRUDE IMPORTS), WITH THE ROKG GRADUALLY  
TAKING OVER THE PURCHASING OF CRUDE AND REDUCING THE ROLE  
OF FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES. ON ANOTHER FRONT INTELLIGENCE

SOURCES (SECRET/NOFORN) REPORT THAT KOREA AND AUSTRALIA ARE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT URANIUM MINING VENTURE, IN WHICH THE ROK WOULD HOLD 25 PERCENT. KOREA WOULD GET SUPPLY ASSURANCES, AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY WORK FORCE TO ALLOW AUSTRALIA TO EXPLOIT ITS URANIUM RESOURCES. (BDP)

2. STR DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS IN SEOUL (L.O.U.)

STEVE LANDE OF STR MET WITH ROKG OFFICIALS IN SEOUL THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF PENDING TRADE ISSUES. SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION WERE CONTINUING PROBLEMS WITH EXPORT RESTRAINTS ON NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR, GROWING PROBLEMS WITH FAST-INCREASING EXPORTS TO THE U.S. OF COLOR TELEVISION SETS, AND MTN RELATED MATTERS. ROKG OFFICIALS AGREED TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC ISSUES RAISED BY THE U.S. SIDE ON FOOTWEAR, AND LANDE ASKED THE ROKG TO SEND A DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON IN LATE SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS COLOR TV'S. LANDE REMINDED THE ROKG OFFICIALS THAT THE U.S. HAD TABLED AN ATTRACTIVE MTN OFFER TO KOREA, AND CAUTIONED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN UNLESS WE SOON HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE OFFER FROM KOREA. KOREA HAS GIVEN EVERY INDICATION IT WILL BE FORTHCOMING ON THE MTN, BUT IS YET TO TABLE A FIRM OFFER. (BDP)

3. PING-PONG DIPLOMACY BOUNCES ALONG (CONFIDENTIAL)

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PAGE 03 STATE 215799

PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL PING-PONG CHAMPIONSHIPS, TO BE HELD IN P'YONGYANG NEXT APRIL, CONTINUE, WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN ORGANIZATION'S ANNOUNCEMENT AUGUST 21 THAT IT HAS FORWARDED ITS LIST OF PLAYERS TO THE INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE NORTH. THE NORTH KOREAN ORGANIZERS ARE REQUIRED TO EXTEND FORMAL INVITATIONS BY MID-SEPTEMBER. PERHAPS COINCIDENTALLY, ON WEDNESDAY, NORTH KOREA RAN AN ITEM HIGHLIGHTING THE EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS ALREADY UNDERWAY AND MENTIONING KIM IL-SONG'S "SPECIAL CONCERN" AND "DEEP SOLICITUDE" FOR THE EVENT. (DBM)

4. DCM STERN BEGINS HOME LEAVE CONSULTATIONS (L.O.U.)

TOM STERN HAS BEGUN HIS WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS, WHICH WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7. HIS CALLS ARE GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH RANKING PEOPLE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, SUCH AS THE LIKELY IMPACT OF THE ARMS TRANSFER CEILING ON KOREA IN FY 1979. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER WILL ALSO BE IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 25; HIS SCHEDULE INCLUDES A CALL ON THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND

LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK. (DB)

5. KOREANS SEEK INCREASE IN POLLACK ALLOCATION (L.O.U.)

OFFICE OF FISHERIES DIRECTOR ADMIRAL SHIN TAE YOUNG  
CALLED ON EA DAS HEGINBOTHAM AND OTHER WASHINGTON OFFICIALS  
THIS WEEK TO SEEK AN INCREASE IN KOREA'S ALASKAN POLLACK  
ALLOCATION IN THE NORTH PACIFIC. KOREA'S TOTAL POLLACK  
CATCH IS CURRENTLY LESS THAN 20 OF WHAT IT WAS BEFORE THE  
1977 CLOSING OF SOVIET WATERS TO KOREAN FISHERMEN. AS A  
MAJOR CONSUMER OF KOREA'S PROCESSED CATCH, THE UNITED  
STATES WOULD GAIN ECONOMICALLY BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF  
INCREASED KOREAN PRODUCTION OF THE LABOR-INTENSIVE END-  
PRODUCT, FROZEN FILLET BLOCK. WE ARE WORKING WITH OES TO  
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PAGE 04 STATE 215799

SEE IF AN INCREASE IN THE KOREAN ALLOCATION IS POSSIBLE.  
(BDP)

CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED PORT MORESBY.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ENRG, ETRD, PEPR, MARR, EFIS, KS, US, KN  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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